



**Fatality #20 – October 1, 2003**  
**Powered Haulage - CO - Sand & Gravel**  
**Eastern Colorado Aggregates - Holly Pit**

On October 1, 2003, a 39-year-old laborer/operator, with 4½ years experience, was fatally injured at a surface dredge operation. The victim was using a forklift, near the edge of a dredge pond, to relocate the dredge's high voltage cable. He drowned when the embankment sloughed off causing the forklift to tip in the pond.



**Best Practices**

- Evaluate the stability of the ground prior to operating mobile equipment near any drop off or edge.
- Ensure that mobile equipment is positioned a safe distance from the edge prior to performing work.
- Require flotation devices be worn by persons operating mobile equipment in the vicinity of water.

This is the 20th fatality reported in calendar year 2003 in the metal and nonmetal mining industries. As of this date in 2002, there were 29 fatalities reported in these industries. This is the third fatality classified as powered haulage in 2003. There were 11 powered haulage fatalities in the same period in 2002.